



Committees Newsletter

January – March 2017

The newsletter of the French Chamber committees:

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French Chamber announces 6th edition of the SME Awards

The French Chamber is excited to announce the launch of the 6th edition of the SME Awards.

Created in 2007, the SME Awards is a competition to reward the best SMEs and startups created by French entrepreneurs in Hong Kong and to encourage their entrepreneurial spirit and development. It is open to any Hong Kong SME or startup created by a French entrepreneur.

This year, the winner will receive a prize of HKD 80,000 sponsored by InvestHK, one year free consultation with Mazars worth HKD 25,000 (adapted to their needs and covering advices on tax, accounting, structure and other business advisory services), participation in an HKTDC event and a free one-year French Chamber membership.

For the 2017 edition, candidates have until 21 April 2017 to submit their applications. We wish the best of luck and success to the 2017 candidates and we look forward to offering a warm welcome to the winner during the French Chamber Gala Dinner in May.

To download the application form, please click [here](#).

Do not hesitate to spread the word regarding the support offered by the BAG:

A new format has been launched whereby BAG members commit to meet the candidates twice, after preparatory meetings if needed, so that meeting time be totally used to the benefit of the candidate, his project and the advisors.

Start-ups offering disruptive services/products will be offered a special package (open to members only).

Projects to be sent to committees@fccihk.com, and then forwarded to the BAG.

Specific offer for SMEs with over 3 years of experience, as well.

Please contact us and forward the information to your contacts.

Watches are created on a regular basis for most committees: do not hesitate to check your committee webpage for more information on news, events, or indexes...

Recommendations for the Policy Address:

Do not hesitate to forward by Friday, 28 April to committees@fccihk.com any topic or recommendation you would like to raise to the Hong Kong government.

Gentle reminder:

To ease committee meetings organization, it would be really appreciated that:

✦ Members **reply to meetings notices** either by registering to the meeting, or replying that they cannot make it,

✦ **Attend the said meetings when they have registered.**

Meetings imply practical organization and invitation to speakers, and it is important that we know how many guests we shall welcome.

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Committees' activities

Banking and Finance - FinTech group

This group focuses on the impact of new technologies for banks.

It gathers unit managers to help them have a vision of the technology impact, and proposes a holistic approach by sharing presentations from both the banking industry and other large companies that face the same revolution.

Past meeting:

† Jan. 10, 2017 'Collaboration and Innovation'

Next meeting:

† Apr. 20, 2017 'In search for yield: receivables as an investable asset Class'

Business Advisors group

The aim of the Business Advisors group (BAG) is to bring network / contacts, advise and coach start-ups or companies going for new developments.

Actions:

- † BAG modus operandi: Main idea is to bring help – the approach is altruist,
- † Clear difference and separation between the BAG action (counseling) linked to the Chamber, and the financial relations linked with members intuitu personae that are totally separated from the Chamber scope of actions,

Pitch Clinic:

This new service targets tech start-ups that are met before they go and pitch potential investors. Start-up interested can contact committees@fccihk.com.

Past meetings:

† Jan. 20, 2017 'Weesper' and 'Elearn2grow'
† Mar. 17, 2017 'Undone'

Next meetings:

† Apr. 21 'Pitch Clinic': Key2cell and Coolhobo
† Apr. 25 BAG meeting: The Artist

Chief Financial Officer Roundtable

This committee provides an opportunity for regional CFOs to exchange freely on common topics and get access to information that is most relevant to their daily functions. This roundtable is closed to non-CFOs.

Past meetings:

† Jan. 23, 2017 'HKEX IPO market and reason to consider listing in Hong Kong -Strategy on FICC and future role of HK as an International fixed income centre'
† Mar. 06, 2017 Presentation by Pernod Ricard

Next meeting:

† Apr. 24, 2017 The procurement function

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China Committee

The 2016-17 programme proposes activities on the following topics: China economics and politics, business confidence, Chinese management, digital in China, labour relations, the green economy, the 'one belt one road' initiative, as well as networking cocktails.

Past meeting:

Mar. 27, 2017 '2017: a year of unprecedented risks!'

Past event:

Feb. 21, 2017 Cocktail with Hong Kong General Chamber

Next meeting:

Jun. 05, 2017 'Made in China 2025'

Corporate sustainability working group

This new working group focuses on corporate sustainability, not philanthropy. Members want to concentrate on business, measure the impact of sustainability on business, get concrete ideas, and are interested in hearing from practitioners. It may also launch lobbying actions.

Past meetings:

† Jan. 16, 2017 CSR methodology at Vivarte
† Mar. 20, 2017 "Retail Go Green efforts" by the Hong Kong Jockey Club

Next meeting:

† May 15, 2017 TBC

Digital Innovation committee

This Committee mission is to share market best practices and latest insights on Digital and Innovation, educate on e-transformation process for established corporations and on lifecycle for technology start-ups.

Past meetings:

† Jan. 25, 2017 'Data science and Open Data: 'How to use data to do business'
† Mar. 29, 2017 'Virtual Reality'

Past event:

† Feb. 23, 2017 IOT - 'How you build, how you develop, how you sell, how to innovate'.

Next meeting:

† May 17, 2017 'Block chain and its applications'

Editorial Committee

The editorial committee helps the Chamber to prepare its quarterly magazine, HongKongEcho.

HongKongEcho Spring Issue:

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REAL ESTATE

In a city that boasts the dubious honour of being the most expensive housing market in the world (and one of the most expensive property markets generally), we're prone to bouts of exasperation whenever someone brings up the topic of real estate. The high cost of land and its resulting impact on rents – coupled with a compact living environment – is a common gripe for almost all of the territory's seven million inhabitants.

For individuals and businesses alike, we have to look for solutions to this challenging situation.

With Western MNCs being squeezed out of Central due to rising prices and an increased volume of mainland firms willing to pay a premium, Hong Kong's business districts are in a process of transformation.

While real estate is undoubtedly a challenging subject, Hong Kong remains an attractive and unique city. There's little doubt that we will continue to find solutions, adapt and innovate.

Food & Beverage Committee

The goals of the committee are to:

- + Exchange views on the market,
- + Give / receive advice,
- + Create synergies between members,

It focuses on '**exchange of information**' and **lobbying towards the Hong Kong government**.

Past meetings:

- + Jan. 10, 2017 '**Update on real estate**'
- + Feb. 07, 2017 '**The Do's and Don'ts of F&B communication in the Year of the Rooster**'
- + Mar. 07, 2017 '**Traceability in food safety management**'

Next meeting:

- + Apr. 25, 2017 '**The Craft and Specialty trend and its consequences for the beer customers**'

Green Business committee

The Green Business Committee provides a user friendly forum for sustainable development issues, and addresses matters of specific concern or interest in conservation and environmental matters consistent with sustainable development principles.

Past meetings:

- + Jan. 19, 2017 '**Innovation**' - showcase of members' latest expertise
- + Mar. 09, 2017 '**Material Recycling and Solutions**'

Next meeting:

- + Mar. 11, 2017 **TBC**

'Healthcare & Insurance' working group

This new working group was launched in November 2015. It is a restricted one that gathers only members from the healthcare and insurance sectors.

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Past meeting:

† Mar. 30, 2017

'The healthy ageing platform'

Next meeting:

† June 8, 2017

Presentation by A Plus International Services Ltd.

Past event:

† Jan. 24, 2017

Hong Kong air pollution: Impact for Hong Kong business and attractiveness

Human Resources Steering Committee:

The Committee's nature is oriented towards a 'Club' mindset: people sharing the same issues, looking for solutions, with HR leaders at the center of the group plus few representatives of professions interesting for HR.

In 2015-16, the Committee will focus on experience sharing.

Past meeting:

† Feb. 09, 2017

'Redefinition of the HR function purpose'

Next meeting:

† Apr. 28, 2017

TBC

Infrastructure Committee:

The Committee continues its exchanges with the Hong Kong government, answering consultations and inviting representatives to do presentations during committee meetings.

Past event:

† Feb. 24, 2017

'Hong Kong 2030+'

Next meeting:

† May. 8, 2017

'PPP in Hong Kong and the region'

Legal working group:

This new working group is a restricted one that gathers only in-house counsels and lawyers from legal firms.

Experience sharing will be encouraged to compare practices, and lawyers will provide presentations to counsels on hot topics such as new laws in Hong Kong and the region.

Past meetings:

† Feb. 16, 2017

Career change: from lawyer to in-house counsel / from in-house counsel to lawyer

† Mar. 23, 2017

Current market in Hong Kong for the recruitment of lawyers and in-house counsels

Next meeting:

† May 18, 2017

TBC

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Logistics and Supply Chain working group:

This new working group gathers members in charge of Supply chain and from logistics companies.

Past meetings:

† Feb. 28, 2017 'TAL Apparel Replenishment Solutions'

Next meeting:

† Apr. 27, 2017 Digitization in Logistics

Luxury and Retail committee:

Members of the Luxury & Retail Committee gain valuable input and up-to-date information from industry insiders as well as enjoying an exclusive platform where they exchange trends and new practices.

Past meetings:

† Jan. 23, 2017 'A discussion on the past, present and future of luxury retail in Hong Kong and beyond'
(Luxury Steering Committee meeting)

† Mar. 24, 2017 Experience sharing session between junior and senior brands

Past event:

† Mar. 02, 2017 'Hong Kong's attractiveness: challenges and opportunities'

Policy and Consultation committee:

This committee aims at supporting the Chamber to prepare its paper submissions: the Policy and the Budget recommendations.

The French Chamber recommendations to the Hong Kong Government regarding the Policy and the Budget recommendations were prepared and sent on 7 November.

The Committee also brought its support in writing the letter to the Airport Authority within the lobbying action launched by the Luxury Steering group with the support of 3 other Chambers: the Italian, Spanish and Swiss ones.

Committees members are invited to send their input by Friday, 28 April (to committees@fccihk.com), so that the recommendations be prepared before the holidays, for sending late August.

Small and Medium Enterprises committee:

This committee has been split into two categories: medium-size companies (SME Steering committee) and small size companies and start-ups (SME committee).

Both committees continue to organise regular gatherings.

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SME committee past meetings:

- † Jan. 25, 2017 'CFO 2.0: Part time or Externalized?'
- † Mar. 22, 2017 SMEs funding schemes

SME Steering committee past meetings:

- † Jan. 13, 2017 'How to find one's number 2'

SME committee next meeting:

- † May 17, 2017 TBC

SME Steering committee next meeting:

- † May 12, 2017 Experience sharing

Sourcing Committee:

The committee continues to hold its successful monthly meetings, with many exchanges between the participants.

Past meetings:

- † Jan. 06, 2017 China sourcing and quality organization (sourcing for both abroad & Chinese "customers")
- † Feb. 10, 2017 Product development: from sourcing to branding
- † Mar. 03, 2017 Lean manufacturing

Past event:

- † Mar. 16, 2017 7th Edition of Made In Asia - The end of the middleman: is Sourcing as we know it dying?

Next meeting:

- † Apr. 21, 2017 'FNAC DARTY Asia sourcing or how to adapt Fnac as a new brand in Darty sourcing organisation'

Next event:

- † Apr. 21, 2017 Sourcing dinner

Women On Board committee:

The WOB Committee of the French Chamber in Hong Kong has conceived a **Mentoring Program for Young Women Professionals** and will accompany the creation of relevant mutually beneficial partnerships between Mentees and Mentors, in order to facilitate the intuitu personae relationship, key for a successful mentoring program. It has also organized **its large event that took place on 7th March 2017 around the 'He for She' initiative.**

Past meeting:

- † Mar. 01, 2017 Brainstorming

Past events:

- † Jan. 12, 2017 Exclusive luncheon - Human Capital and Diversity in the financial services industry
- † Jan. 25, 2017 Women Cocktail at D'Auchel
- † Jan. 26, 2017 Learning and Development series - 'Stress management'
- † Mar. 07, 2017 International Women's Day - HeForShe (business forum followed by cocktail)

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Young Professionals and VI committee:

The Young Professionals & VI Committee aims at animating and developing the network of the young professionals and V.I. community in Hong Kong, while helping to integrate them to the broader Hong Kong business community.

These goals are achieved through the organisation of regular networking cocktails, and through round table events and workshops, where young professionals are given the opportunity to meet experienced top managers.

Past events:

† Jan. 23, 2017

YP & VI Roundtable: Entrepreneurship, Digital and the new retail experience with OnTheList

† Mar. 21, 2017

YP Cocktail

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